

Army's objection to Cellular Phone in N.E.

*339. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an objection from the Army to deployment of cellular phone in most of the North-Eastern States;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the regions/States where such objection/ban has been imposed by Army to the deployment of cellular phone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) For security reasons, the Army has some reservations about the use of cellular phones in the militancy affected States of Assam, Manipur, Nagaland and Tripura. However, at present cellular services are available at Guwahati and Shillong.

Historical Article taken away by the Army during Operation Blue Star

*340. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some historical books, paintings and other material taken away by Army during Operation Blue Star in 1984 from Golden Temple Library, had been handed over to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) by the Army Authorities as reported in the 'Tribune' dated May 25, 2000;

(b) if so, the details of articles still lying with the CBI;

(c) whether Government propose to return all such articles to Golden Temple Library in near future; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) CBI reported that several items handed over to them by the Army authorities which included books and paintings were returned to the representatives of Shiromani